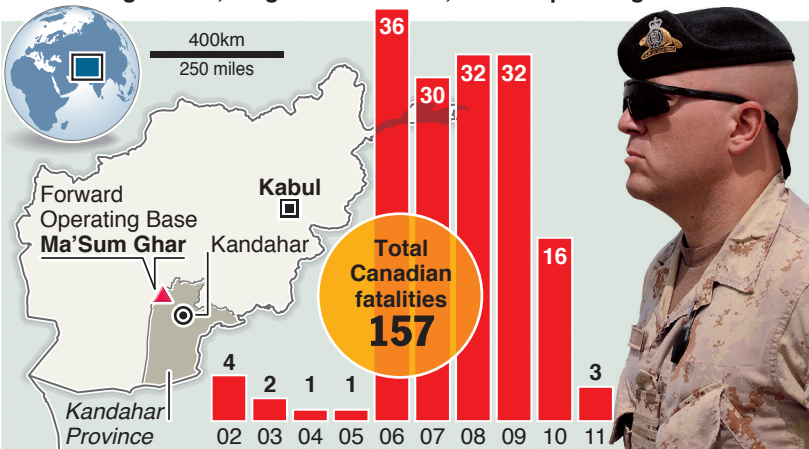


Canadian forces end Afghan mission

Canada's 2,800 troops are returning home from Afghanistan as the country's nine-year combat mission comes to a close. The U.S. plans to withdraw 33,000 of its soldiers by the end of 2012, while other countries, including France, Belgium and the UK, are also planning drawdowns



■ **Oct 7, 2001:** Following 9/11 attacks against United States, Canadian Prime Minister **Jean Chretien** pledges troops to join U.S. and British mission to topple Taliban and Al Qaeda

■ **Feb 2002:** First Canadian troops arrive in Kandahar

■ **Jul:** More than 1,800 Canadians head to Kabul to join NATO's **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)**

■ **Aug:** Forces move to Kandahar

■ **Jan 2006:** Taliban bomb attack on military convoy kills Canadian diplomat, 59-year-old **Glyn Berry**

■ **Mar:** Canada launches **Operation Peacekeeper** – nation's biggest military operation since Korean War

■ **Sep:** Canadian-led ISAF mission **Operation Medusa** launched from **Ma'sum Ghar**. **Forward Operating Base becomes epicentre of Canada's war in Afghanistan**

■ **Mar 2008:** Canadian government extends combat mission but sets July 2011 as deadline for withdrawal

■ **Jul 7, 2011:** Almost all Canadian troops return home, leaving 950 soldiers and support staff to carry out training mission in Kabul until 2014